

# The Australian Women's Register

---

**Entry type:** Person  
**Entry ID:** AWE0136

## Kibble, Nita Bernice

(1879 - 1962)

---

**Born** 1 January, 1879

---

**Died** 31 December, 1962

---

**Occupation** Librarian

---

### Summary

Nita Kibble was the first woman appointed as a librarian with the New South Wales State Library. Her career began by accident in 1899 when the signature on her application form was misread, and thought to be that of a man.

### Details

Kibble joined the State Library of NSW in 1899 and established the Library's first research department in 1918. In 1919 she was appointed Principal Research Officer, and retained the position until her retirement in 1943. Kibble raised her niece, Nita May Dobbie, from birth. Dobbie later established the Kibble Awards for Women Writers in memory of her aunt.

### Published resources

#### Resource

The Gentle Arts: Australia's women pioneers in the fields of literature, music and fine art., <http://www.pioneerwomen.com.au/gentlearts.htm>

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

#### Resource Section

Kibble, Nita Bernice (1879-1962), Arnot, Jean F., 2006, <http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A090585b.htm>

### Archival resources

#### Mitchell and Dixson Libraries Manuscripts Collection

[Jean Fleming Arnot - personal and professional papers, 1890-1995](#)

[State Library of New South Wales - Jean Arnot interviewed by Rosemary Block about her life after she retired from the State Library. She also speaks in some detail of her colleagues Miss Nita Kibble and Miss Nita Dobbie, 1994.](#)

### Author Details

Anne Heywood

**Created** 10 October 2001

**Last modified** 29 October 2018